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EXAMINER

WANG, JIN CHENG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2672

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,443

Applicant(s)

FALCIONI, RICHARD A.

Examiner

Jin-Cheng Wang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 28, line 10 of the claim 40, "a input" should "an input". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claim 40 is objected to because of the following informalities: On line 10 of the claim 40, "a input" should "an input". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramian.

Re Claims 1, 21-26, 29-30, 33, 34-42:

(a) Ramian teaches a method for generating a desired alphanumeric character, comprising:

Providing a plurality of mnemonic aids that represent a plurality of different alphanumeric characters (See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 01390147, 0149), each aid being designed so that it can suggest to a person a respective combination of one or more zones (See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108,

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0109, 0130, 01390147, 0149), from a plurality of zones (See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 01390147, 0149).

(b) However, Ramian does not implicitly teach “the remainder resembles the desired character”.

(c) Ragain teaches that, if the combination is contrasted with the remainder of said plurality of zones. For example, the characters “a” and “z” in Fig. 2 are drawn within a plurality of zones so that it can suggest to a person the respective combination of zones by illuminating the curves within such combination which must be contrasted with the remainder of zones so that the drawn the curves resemble the desired character (See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 01390147, 0149).

(d) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have selected zones for generating graphic symbols with the stylus so that the remainder of the unselected zones resembles the desired character because Ragain teaches selecting curves and traces along a selected plurality of zones for generating graphic symbols with the stylus so that the remainder of the unselected areas of the plurality of zones indicate the desired character by illuminating the selected curves and traces with the selected plurality of zones and therefore the remainder resembles the desired character because the remainder of the zones except the illuminated curves/traces is not highlighted. Moreover, Ramian teaches the combination is contrasted with the remainder area of said plurality of zones not including the illuminated curves and traces. For example, the characters “a” and “z” in Fig. 2 are drawn within a plurality of zones so that it can suggest to a person the respective combination of curves/traces within the zones by illuminating the curves within such combination which must be contrasted

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with the remainder area of zones so that the drawn curves resemble the desired character (See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 01390147, 0149).

(e) Such modification would have been required for constructing an alternative way for generating alphanumeric characters and thereby suggesting the obvious modification of Ramian.

Claim 2:

The claim 2 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of the claim 1 except additional claim limitation that the plurality of zones are arranged so that the periphery around them is the maximum extent of every graphic symbol that appears when a combination of one or more zones is contrasted. However, Ramian further discloses the claim limitation of the plurality of zones are arranged so that the periphery around them is the maximum extent of every graphic symbol that appears when a combination of one or more zones is contrasted (*Ramian teaches selecting curves and traces along a selected plurality of zones for generating graphic symbols with the stylus so that the remainder of the unselected areas of the plurality of zones indicate the desired character by illuminating the selected curves and traces with the selected plurality of zones and therefore the remainder resembles the desired character because the remainder of the zones except the illuminated curves/traces is not highlighted. Moreover, Ramian teaches the combination is contrasted with the remainder area of said plurality of zones not including the illuminated curves and traces. For example, the characters "a" and "z" in Fig. 2 are drawn within a plurality of zones so that it can suggest to a person the respective combination of curves/traces within the zones by illuminating the curves within such combination which must be contrasted with the remainder area of zones so that the drawn curves resemble the desired*

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character. See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 01390147, 0149)

Claim 3:

The claim 3 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of the claim 1 except additional claim limitation of the plurality of zones forming a matrix. However, Ramian further discloses the claim limitation of the plurality of zones forming a matrix (Figs. 1-3).

Claim 4:

The claim 4 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of the claim 3 except additional claim limitation of the matrix having twelve zones arranged in four rows and three columns. However, Ramian further discloses the claim limitation of the matrix having twelve zones arranged in four rows and three columns (Figs. 1-2).

Claim 5:

The claim 5 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of the claim 3 except additional claim limitation that the respective combination of zones has no more than two zones, and wherein the plurality of mnemonic aids represent all 26 letters of the English alphabet and 10 decimal numerals. However, Ramian further discloses the claim limitation that the respective combination of zones has no more than two zones, and wherein the plurality of mnemonic aids represent all 26 letters of the English alphabet and 10 decimal numerals (*This is because the character "z" can be traced within one zone of the matrix and all the English alphabets and 10 decimal numerals can be represented by the matrix; See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 0139, 0147, 0149).*

Claim 6:

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The claim 6 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of the claim 3 except additional claim limitation of each aid being depicted by a matrix of the plurality of zones that shows the respective combination. However, Ramian further discloses the claim limitation of each aid being depicted by a matrix of the plurality of zones that shows the respective combination wherein the characters can be drawn with the curves/traces within the respective combination of the zones in the matrix of the plurality of zones (*See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 0043, 0072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 0139, 0147, 0149*).

Claim 7:

The claim 7 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of the claim 1 except additional claim limitation of visually contrasting a combination of one or more of said plurality of zones with unselected ones of said plurality of zones, as the combination is being selected by a person. However, Ramian further discloses the claim limitation of visually contrasting a combination of one or more of said plurality of zones with unselected ones of said plurality of zones, as the combination is being selected by a person. Ramian discloses visually contrasting the combination of zones with the selected curves/traces illuminated with the unselected zones un-illuminated wherein the combination of the zones are selected by a person with for example a stylus (*See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 0139, 0147, 0149*).

Claim 8:

Ramian teaches a method for generating alphanumeric characters, comprising:

Providing a plurality of selection zones (*See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 0139, 0147, 0149*);

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Instructing a user to select a combination, of one or more of said plurality of selection zones, that represents the user's desired alphanumeric character (the user selects a plurality of selection zones by a stylus by drawing curves/traces within the selection zones that represent the user's desired character; *See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 0139, 0147, 0149*);

Providing a mapping between said selected combination and the desired alphanumeric character (e.g., Paragraph 0130), wherein the mapping is based on (a) representing each character as a juxtaposition of some of a plurality of open and closed curves (Figs. 1-2), the plurality of selection zones being fewer than the plurality of curves (Figs. 1-2 wherein the characters "a" and "z" being drawn with more curves than the selection zones), (b) creating a template containing all of the plurality of open and closed curves (e.g., Paragraph 0130), and c) aligning the template with the plurality of selection zones (e.g., Paragraph 0130).

Claim 9:

The claim 9 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of the claim 8 except additional claim limitation of enabling the user to select one of the selection zones in the combination, by one of a) depressing a respective push-button and (b) touching a respective region in a touch-sensitive surface. However, Ramian teaches enabling the user to select one of the zones by using a stylus in a touch-sensitive surface (*Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 0139, 0147, 0149*).

Claim 10:

Ramian teaches a method for textual communication, comprising:

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Forming words and phrases using some of a plurality of graphic symbols that represent an entire alphabet (e.g., Paragraph 0100), wherein each graphic symbol visually suggests a separate letter of the alphabet and is made of one or more marks, in a receiving area, none of which form a closed shape (*Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 0139, 0147, 0149*). For example, the traces for the letters "c" and "z" does not form a closed shape.

Claim 11:

The claim 11 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of the claim 10 except additional claim limitation of a word being formed by a user marking a separate receiving area for each graphic symbol that constitutes the word as if the user were writing the word on a sheet of paper. However, Ramian further discloses the claim limitation of a word being formed by a user marking a separate receiving area for each graphic symbol that constitutes the word as if the user were writing the word on a sheet of paper (*Figs. 1-2; Pages 4-8*).

Claim 12:

The claim 12 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of the claim 11 except additional claim limitation of the user using a writing instruct to mark a form sheet on which a plurality of separate receiving areas have been delineated. However, Ramian further discloses the claim limitation of the user using a writing instruct to mark a form sheet on which a plurality of separate receiving areas have been delineated (*Figs. 1-2 and Pages 4-8*).

Re Claims 13-15:

Ramian teaches a method of textual communication, comprising:

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Considering a receiving area that bears a combination of one or more marks as representing an alphanumeric character, wherein each mark has a given form (Figs. 1-2), position and orientation, within the receiving area, that suggest a feature of the character through a complementary rather than direct relationship with that feature (*Ramain teaches selecting curves and traces along a selected plurality of zones for generating graphic symbols with the stylus so that the remainder of the unselected areas of the plurality of zones indicate the desired character by illuminating the selected curves and traces with the selected plurality of zones and therefore the remainder resembles the desired character because the remainder of the zones except the illuminated curves/traces is not highlighted. Moreover, Ramian teaches the combination is contrasted with the remainder area of said plurality of zones not including the illuminated curves and traces. For example, the characters "a" and "z" in Fig. 2 are drawn within a plurality of zones so that it can suggest to a person the respective combination of curves/traces within the zones by illuminating the curves within such combination which must be contrasted with the remainder area of zones so that the drawn curves resemble the desired character. See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 01390147, 0149*).

Re Claims 16-20 and 27-28 and 31-32:

Ramain teaches that, if the combination is contrasted with the remainder of said plurality of zones. For example, the characters "a" and "z" in Fig. 2 are drawn within a plurality of zones so that it can suggest to a person the respective combination of zones by illuminating the curves within such combination which must be contrasted with the remainder of zones so that the drawn the curves resemble the desired character (See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 01390147, 0149).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have selected zones for generating graphic symbols with the stylus so that the remainder of the unselected zones resembles the desired character because Ramain teaches selecting curves and traces along a selected plurality of zones for generating graphic symbols with the stylus so that the remainder of the unselected areas of the plurality of zones indicate the desired character by illuminating the selected curves and traces with the selected plurality of zones and therefore the remainder resembles the desired character because the remainder of the zones except the illuminated curves/traces is not highlighted. Moreover, Ramian teaches the combination is contrasted with the remainder area of said plurality of zones not including the illuminated curves and traces. For example, the characters "a" and "z" in Fig. 2 are drawn within a plurality of zones so that it can suggest to a person the respective combination of curves/traces within the zones by illuminating the curves within such combination which must be contrasted with the remainder area of zones so that the drawn curves resemble the desired character (See Figs. 1-3; Paragraph 007, 0030, 00430072, 0085, 0108, 0109, 0130, 01390147, 0149).

Such modification would have been required for constructing an alternative way for generating alphanumeric characters and thereby suggesting the obvious modification of Ramian.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (703) 605-1213. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 6:30 (Mon-Thu).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jeffrey A. Bruns
JEFFREY A. BRUNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

jcw